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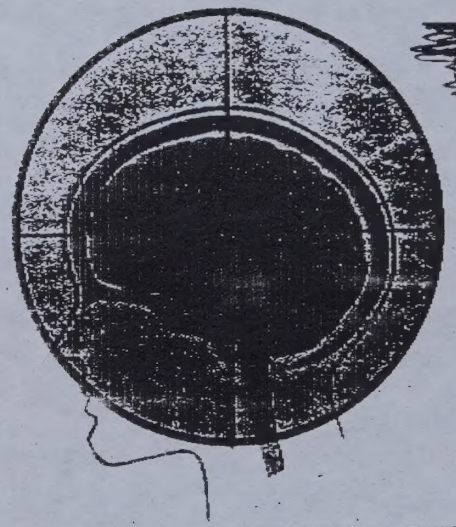
"Hate crime" laws equal government thought police.

An Appeal to Reason from Colorado for Family Values



The death of Matthew Shepard was a crime and a human tragedy. Not because of the lifestyle of the victim, nor because of the thoughts and motives of the perpetrators. This is a human tragedy because it represents the gruesome taking of a human life.

What compounds this tragedy is the attempt to twist Shepard's death into a pretext for pro-homosexual "hate crimes" laws. These misguided measures would ***turn our government into a thought police, dilute the legal seriousness of so-called "ordinary" crimes, and quietly make homosexuality a de-facto minority group.*** (The latter is the real motive for the whole effort.)

Our Founding Fathers stated an extreme aversion to having the state police the thoughts and opinions of its citizens. A murder should be punished just as harshly whether the motive was racism or greed. If the penalties for murder are insufficient, then let's raise penalties — across the board. But we should never punish people's thoughts, or create second-class victims.

The reason why Matthew Shepard's murder is earning such white-hot media attention is clear: the homosexual lobby is anxious to hijack this into a pretext for advancing their agenda.

By promoting such laws, and then injecting themselves into the list of protected groups, ***they gain what they have been unable to win at the voting booth: a listing alongside legitimate ethnic minorities.*** This is why the last few years have produced so many reports of homosexuals staging "hate crimes" against themselves. From a New Mexico lesbian having herself "beat up" to Washington State homosexuals setting their own house on fire, to the dubious attack on a local Citizens' Project member (which police found no evidence had actually occurred), homosexual activists and their supporters know that "hate crimes" buy them progress, not to mention sympathetic print.

So let us mourn Matthew Shepard's death as a senseless murder, and not turn it into a heyday for homosexual extremists, or the pretext for an attack on the First Amendment.

Take action today!

Having just experienced homosexual onslaughts on the state level (the "hate crimes" bill SB49 and the special "gay rights" bill HB 1257), our attention now turns to Washington, where a sweeping thought police bill, SB1529, the so-called "Hate Crimes Prevention Act" is being pushed by the Clinton Administration. Clinton recently told the nation that he considers those who oppose homosexuality as equivalent to Serbian murderers in Kosovo. Tell Washington what you think: call the Capitol Hill switchboard at 202-224-3121 and ask for your representative, or call 202-224-5852 for Senator Campbell, 202-224-5941 for Senator Allard.

To send a donation to Colorado for Family Values, please complete this coupon and mail to:

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